

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05912 151007Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----065663 151008Z /13  
O 150923Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5123

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5912

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND EA

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, KS, SHUM  
SUBJECT: YI CHOL-SUNG CONTINUES CAMPAIGN AMONG OPPOSITION LEADERS

REF: SEOUL 5865

BEGIN SUMMARY. NDP FLOOR LEADER SONG WON-YONG TELLS US THAT YI CHOL-SUNG HAS HAD VERY SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS WITH ROK'S TWO MOST IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS FIGURES, CARDINAL KIM AND KIM KWAN-SUK, AND THAT BOTH RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAD CONGRATULATED YI ON HIS RECENT SUCCESSES IN THE ASSEMBLY AND IN HELPING TO MOVE THE GOVERNMENT TOWARD PRISONER RELEASE. END SUMMARY.

1. SONG WON-YONG TOLD POLCOUNS JULY 14 THAT YI CHOL-SUNG HAD ANTICIPATED TOUCH GOING WITH CARDINAL AT MEETING HELD SAME DAY, BUT UNEXPECTEDLY CARDINAL WAS EXCEPTIONALLY WARM, HOSPITABLE, AND APPROVING OF THE STEP-BY-STEP POLITICAL PROCESS YI IS CURRENTLY ADVOCATING AND PURSUING. CARDINAL ALSO SAID, ACCORDING TO SONG, THAT HIS PAST APPOINTMENTS FOR MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT PAK HAD ABORTED DUE TO UNAVOIDABLE SCHEDULING CONFLICTS; HE WAS HOWEVER ALWAYS PREPARED TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND WOULD BE  
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HAPPY TO DO SO AT THIS TIME. JUST BEFORE YI LEFT, CARDINAL GAVE YI HANDFUL OF PETITIONS FROM FAMILIES OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT PRISONERS AND OTHER DISSIDENTS WITH REQUEST THAT YI PASS THEM ON TO "AUTHORITY HIGHER THAN JUSTICE MINISTRY, " A TERM WHICH SONG WON-YONG INTERPRETED AS MEANING THE KCIA. YI ACCEPTED PETITIONS, THEN WAS ESCORTED TO HIS CAR BY CARDINAL AND WISHED VERY BEST LUCK

IN HIS ENDEAVORS.

2. WHILE HE APPARENTLY HAD SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER LOWER CLASSES AND THEIR SPOKESMEN WOULD HAVE RIGHT TO SPEAK OUT IN FUTURE ABOUT THEIR ECONOMIC AND OTHER TROUBLES, KIM KWAN-SUK ALSO APPARENTLY WENT ALONG 100 PERCENT WITH YI WHEN LATTER CALLED ON KIM DAY OR SO AGO. YI EXPLAINED TO KIM KWAN-SUK THAT POOR CLASSES WERE CERTAINLY AT LIBERTY TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS; INDEED, THEY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO.

3. SONG WON-YONG SAID ONLY HOLD OUT AGAINST YI'S MODERATE APPROACH AMONG MAJOR OPPOSITION FIGURES IS KIM DAE-CHUNG. YI CHOL-SUNG HAS NOT GIVEN UP TRYING TO WIN AGREEMENT FROM KIM AND IS WORKING PERSISTENTLY THROUGH KIM KAE-CHUNG'S LAWYERS WHO HAVE ACCESS TO KIM IN JAIL. NOTING THAT IT WAS CARDINAL WHO HAD BEEN MOST INFLUENTIAL IN PERSUADING KIM DAE-CHUNG TO CEASE HIS RECENT FAST IN PRISON, SONG SAID THAT HE AND YI WERE BOTH HOPEFUL CARDINAL AND KIM KWAN-SUK WOULD BE HELPFUL IN PERSUADING KIM DAE-CHUNG AND HIS ASSOCIATES TO JOIN IN THE CURRENT EFFORTS TO REACH "COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS" TO KOREA'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** YI CHOL-SUNG CONTINUES CAMPAIGN AMONG OPPOSITION LEADERS  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, PINS, KS, (YI CHOL-SUNG), (KIM KWAN-SUK)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009